

NEW JERSEY URBAN LEAGUE  
For Social Service Among Negroes -  
212 Bank Street,

Monday, February 3, '19.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Urban League met on the above date at 212 Bank Street. Those present were:- Dr. Wm. H. Vail, president of the Society who presided until the arrival of Dr. Lusk, Mrs. M. B. Gregory, Mr. van B. Powell, Mrs. Green, Rev. H. K. Spearman, Mr. Wm. Ashby, Mr. A. W. MacDougall, Miss Helen B. Bendleton, Miss Josephine Pinyon, and Mrs. E. P. Shrubey.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read, the Treasurer's report was read and approved and ordered filed with the minutes. The treasurer inquired about the funds from the Phyllis Wheatley Home Committee which have not yet been placed with the treasurer. This brought out the fact that the committee recently appointed to take charge of the affairs of the Phyllis Wheatley Home Committee has not yet met and Mr. Powell moved, which was duly seconded by Mrs. Green, and carried, that there be a monthly report rendered to the Executive Committee of this Committee in charge of the Phyllis Wheatley Home affairs. Miss Pinyon then was called upon to give her report, which is herewith attached, as submitted by letter.

The matters brought up in Miss Pinyon's report as submitted by letter to the members of the Committee before the meeting were brought up for discussion.

- 1) "The use of the rooms on the second floor of the League building, and of the large room in the basement."

Miss Bendleton moved, which was duly seconded and carried, that the Phyllis Wheatley Home Committee of which Mrs. Gregory is Chairman, take up this matter with Dr. Lusk and Mr. MacDougall with regard to getting a business income from the building.

- 2) "The question of an extension telephone for the Phyllis Wheatley Home."

This question was left with the Associate Secretary.

- 3) "Plans for, and authorization of the printing of the letter-heads, annual bulletin, the by-laws, cards for the staff."
- 4) "Plans for the annual meeting and a membership drive. Shall we have a membership drive? When? How long? Methods?"

Three and five were referred to the Finance Committee and the Committee on Membership of which Dr. Alexander and Mr. R. W. Stewart, are respectively chairmen. It was suggested that these gentlemen be communicated with as to whether they will serve and take up the matters pertaining to the Committee immediately as the Committee heretofore have been inactive.

- (4) "Discussion of the need of more office equipment especially a filing cabinet, and a runner for the filor."

In the discussion concerning number - 4 - Mr. Ashby said he thought he could get someone to donate a filing cabinet so the matter was left with him. Rev. Mr. Spearman said his church would give a dictionary. It was suggested that the Mairn Linoleum Company be asked if they would give a runner.

- (5) "The actual program of work for the year:
- (a) Health week; when? How long? Cooperation? Doctors Convention?
  - (b) Industrial work; employment, wage standards, living standards, new openings, cooperation with Federal Bureau and other agencies.
  - (c) Work with families; cooperation with the Bureau of Associated Charities, Board of Health, Poor and Alms Department and other agencies.
  - (d) Recreation, standards, centers, clubs."

Miss Pinyon stated that since drawing up the communication she learned that there is a plan on foot for National Health Week in cooperation with the business men's Committee in the spring. This matter was left with her to bring up at a future meeting. With regard to the work with families, etc. Mr. MacDougall moved, which was seconded and carried, that the Executive Secretary strive to revitalize the friendly visitors Committee. In regard to (b) Mr. Ashby was asked what could be done to strengthen the cooperation with the Federal Bureau. Mr. Ashby stated that with regard to applicants for work, if referred by note - his Department will make an effort to get special attention to those sent to him. It was also suggested that the Department might ask the League and the Social workers connected with other institutions to help with difficult matters, concerning applicants at the Department of Labor. He also spoke of the director of Negro Economics - Dr. George E. Haynes, who has inaugurated the policy of mutual cooperative work between the Urban Leagues and the Department of Labor. Mr. Ashby brought before the Committee, a request from him as Supervisor of New Jersey - to

ask the Executive Committee of the Urban League to become an Advisory Committee to his Department. Mr. MacDougall moved, and Mr. Powell seconded, that the Executive Committee accept his suggestion.

Miss Pinyon brought up the request that Mr. Whitehead be made at the Board of Directors Meeting, i. e. - that a committee of three be appointed to take up the matter of Boy's Community Work among colored youths. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Chairman be authorized to appoint a Committee and consult Mr. Ashby and Miss Pinyon with regard to personnel.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held the first Monday of the month at 3:30 P.M.

Mrs. R. Jenkinson and Mr. C. M. Brown sent in regrets that they couldnot attend the meeting.

Mrs. Shrubey was asked to read a report, which she kindly did of the present status of the Phyllis Wheatley Home.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Henry B. Pendleton*  
Secretary.

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REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE SECRETARY  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE N. J. URBAN  
LEAGUE - - February 3, 1919.

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Before starting out on another month's work, I feel there are certain things I wish to lay before this body. I have certain, very strong convictions concerning the work of the N. J. Urban League, but am not at all sure that they are your convictions, and if they are not, it seems better to know now rather than later.

(1) I earnestly desire and hope for an equal sharing of responsibility by all members of the Executive Committee, because working in a community means working with groups of widely differing types of people, we need the points of view and corrective judgements of several people who see things from different angles. It is well to pool all opinions and from them secure plans that are workable and neutral enough to be generally acceptable and generally effective in the community.

The attitude, like that met in other places, of "you're being paid to do this, do it and don't bother us" is not of course, the attitude of thinking persons. One person in a thousand perhaps, is able to sense and meet effectively the spirit of an entire community. I firmly believe that the only way to do a piece of social work is through organized committee effort. I could not and would not try to work any other way.

(2) Working out from a building like this there are certain dangers to be guarded against, if we are to keep always before us the purpose of the Urban League, to supplement community needs not being met by other organizations, and to cooperate, rather than duplicate.

The work here -

- (a) Must be kept from becoming merely a work for girls and women.
- (b) Must not be institutionalized to the extent of making it a Settlement House, thereby restricting, more or less, its program because of time and physical limitations.
- (c) Must be guarded against any hint of an impression that all social or welfare activities among Negroes are to be confined (segregated) to this building; there is neither space nor equipment, and this is contrary to the policy of getting

exist[redacted]ing organizations to include the Negro as far as possible [redacted]ble in their regular program.

(d) Cannot afford to be sectarian in any sense. In order [redacted] to reach and combine all groups and all types, we cannot [redacted] be restricted by any sentiment that is purely denominational, this would be obviously, undemocratic.

I would like to know the Committee's reaction on these points [redacted] so that I might know whether or not the Associate Secretary of the N. J. Urban League is safe in proceeding with the [redacted] work on that basis.